



# THE WAYFARER

PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. OF MINNESOTA

## WELCOME TO THE NEW MASONIC YEAR

From: WM Joe Andrus

As we embrace the new year, I warmly greet each member of our fraternity with joy and anticipation. Time's passage marks our shared journey, urging us to seize growth opportunities in our craft. This new year beckons us to recommit to Freemasonry's principles, reigniting our Masonic spirit with purpose and enthusiasm. Our actions today will shape our future lodge, a source of pride for us all.

I urge each Brother to reflect on their Masonic journey, drawing inspiration from past lessons, friendships, and potential contributions. This reflection should fuel personal growth and reignite our passion for Masonic ideals.

### Footsteps of Tradition: My Path in the Lodge

I am profoundly grateful and humbled to have the opportunity to serve as Junior Warden for 2024, sitting in the West. I hope to grow more adept at this role and in writing this column, as this is my first attempt.

Let me share a bit about my background. My Masonic journey began in childhood. After church on Sundays, my family would visit the local Masonic Lodge in Richfield, where my father was a member. These breakfast gatherings, filled with friendly conversations, were my initial exposure to the Fraternity, Masonic Friendship, and Brotherly Love, although at the time, I didn't fully grasp the meaning of Masonry.

Our lodge, Minnesota #6, plays a vital role in our community. We must support our community's people and institutions, expanding our charitable work, imparting wisdom, and strengthening our internal brotherhood.

In the upcoming year, I am excited to join forces with you in new endeavors, enhancing our Masonic knowledge and fostering unity. Let's aim for excellence, knowing our efforts will enrich our lodge and fraternity. May the new year bring prosperity, health, and joy to you and your loved ones. As we venture into this new chapter at MN. River Valley #6, let's proceed with faith in each other and seize the opportunities our lodge presents.

Following my father's footsteps, I joined the Military after high school, specifically Military Intelligence. My father was also in Intelligence, serving in what was then known as the Army Security Agency. It was only years later that my interest in Masonry was piqued. After discussing the Fraternity with my father, I decided to petition to join Minnesota River Valley Lodge #6, again mirroring my father's path.

Since joining the Lodge, I've met many wonderful people who I now consider friends and brothers. The brothers are there through thick and thin, always ready to lend support. The Lodge is more than just a fraternity; it's a family, rich with experiences and joys.

Every year on this Masonic journey brings new learnings and experiences, reminding me that every member's journey begins in their heart. I am excited about the year ahead as Junior Warden, supporting our Worshipful Master and representing our Lodge.

From: Brother Dean Becker

## Presenting The 2024 Lodge Officers

**Master** - WB Joe Andrus

(952) 432-1660

master@mn-rivervalley.org

**Senior Warden** - Br. Jay Moran

(952) 201-3935

sw@mn-rivervalley.org

**Junior Warden** - Br. Dean Becker

jw@mn-rivervalley.org

**Treasurer** - Br. Matt Kreger

(612) 961-7141

treas@mn-rivervalley.org

**Secretary** - WB Jason Bergerson

(402) 960-3629

sec@mn-rivervalley.org

**Chaplain** - WB Don Moy

(612) 799-8877

chaplain@mn-rivervalley.org

## Masonic Anniversaries

First Name	Last Name	MM	Years of Masonry
Barto	Russell	02/26/1964	60
O'Connor	Jim	01/28/1984	40
Phillips	Robert	01/17/2009	15
Bauer	Mike	01/19/2019	5
Tellers	Dale	01/19/2019	5

## From The West: New Year, New Seat, New Website!

Transitioning to a new role is always a mix of excitement and challenge, as evidenced by the initial flubs which, thankfully, were minimal. These minor hiccups don't overshadow the promising start we've had this year.

2024 is particularly momentous for us as it marks the 25th anniversary of our Lodge's foundation, an amalgamation of four historic Minnesota Masonic Lodges. This milestone, while not spanning a vast historical period, represents a significant achievement in Masonic terms.

Our Lodge is buzzing with activity, akin to a beehive, offering numerous opportunities for engagement. I encourage everyone to participate as much as possible. Understandably, life's commitments like vacations and getaways are important, and Lodge activities should not impede these. However, whenever feasible and within your capacity, I urge you to seize these Masonic opportunities.

On another note, we've updated our website. I invite you to explore it at <http://mn-rivervalley.org>. There's still some information to be added, along with features such as a way to share the 'Wayfarer.' Your visit and feedback would be much appreciated as we continue to improve our online presence.

From: Brother Jay Moran

## OES Report - Br. Brad Smith



In our recent meetings, Renaissance Chapter #313 has had some significant events.

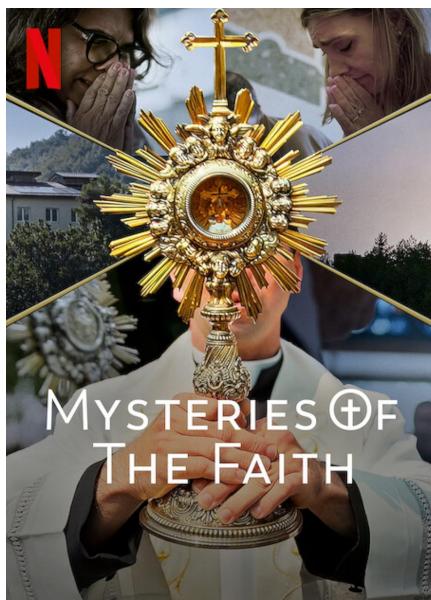
On November 16th, we honored our veterans. At this meeting, we gave them gifts as a token of appreciation and discussed the history and importance of Veterans Day.

Then, on December 21st, we focused on community support. Members generously donated food for the local food shelf. We also explored fundraising ideas for our Chapter and reviewed our scholarship program.

Also note, we will not have a meeting in January.

## Masonry In The Media

Movie/TV  
Recommendation  
On Netflix: Mysteries of Faith



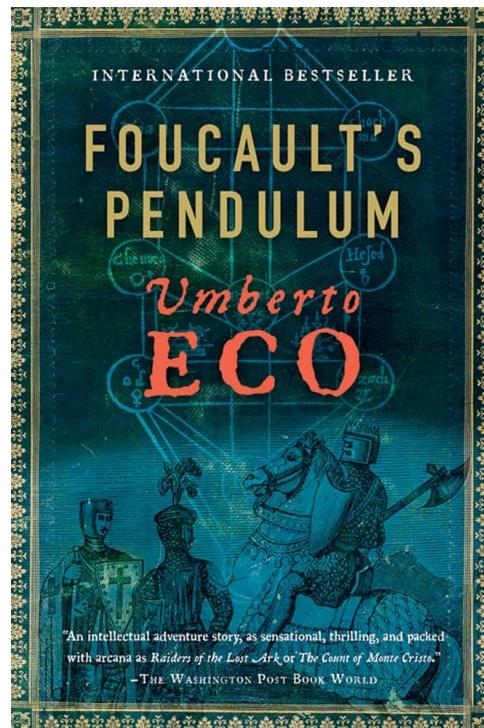
In our latest newsletter's recommendations for Masons seeking captivating entertainment, here's a short docuseries from Netflix that will surely pique your interest: "Mysteries of Faith."

This series explores some of the real-life interactions with relics of the past in today's world, including some protected and found by the historic Knights Templar. Take a watch if you're interested in learning (or planning a trip) more about some of these well known artifacts.

**Synopsis:** "Mysteries of Faith, delves into the enigmatic world of religious phenomena and the unexplained. This series explores the intersection of faith, folklore, and the desire for understanding beyond the material world, examining various traditions and beliefs through a modern lens. It's a captivating journey for those intrigued by the enduring mysteries that faith presents and the profound questions that have puzzled humanity across cultures and ages.

Reader's Corner  
Recommendation

Foucault's Pendulum - Umberto Eco



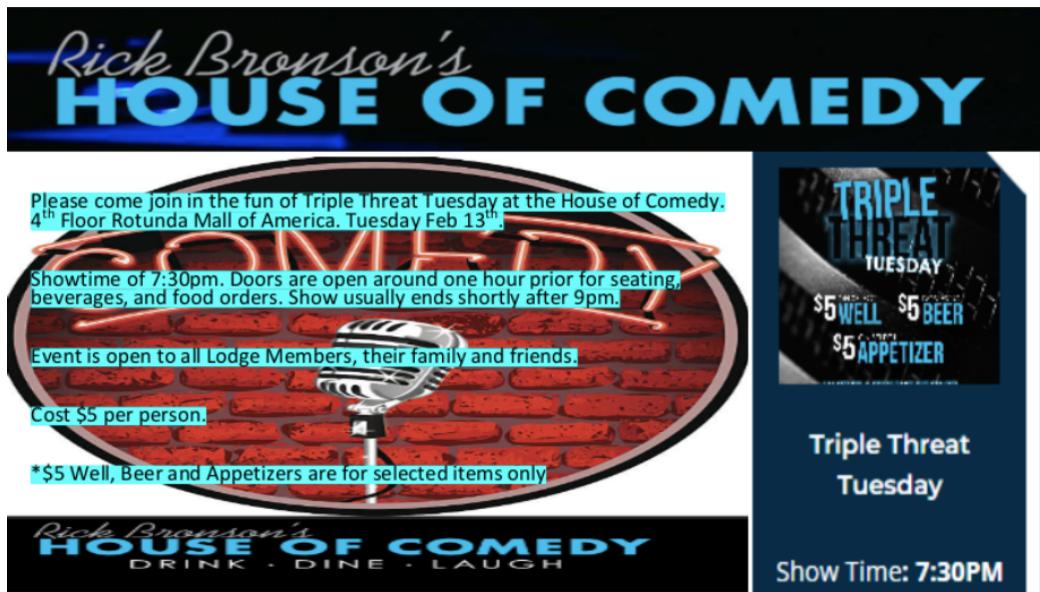
This literary puzzle is an interesting read for Masons who value the intricate interplay of history, mystery, and the profound search for meaning.

In Umberto Eco's "Foucault's Pendulum," three intellectuals, playfully crafting a conspiracy theory for their own amusement, find themselves trapped in a vortex of their own creation. Set against the scholarly backdrop of Milan's publishing world, the novel spirals into the obscure realms of secret societies and arcane knowledge. As their fabricated history gains a cult following, the line between their invented theory and reality blurs, leading to both dark humor and suspenseful intrigue.

Eco's rich narrative invites readers on a cerebral journey that explores the power of belief and the shadowy side of human curiosity.

# HAPPENINGS AROUND THE LODGE

## Comedy Show: Triple Threat Tuesday!



Open to all Lodge Members, their family, and friends.

Entry: \$5 per person

When: Tuesday, February 13th

Where: 4th Floor Rotunda, Mall of America

Doors Open: 6:30 PM for seating

Showtime: 7:30 PM (Show ends shortly after 9:00 PM)

## CHAMPION CROWNED!

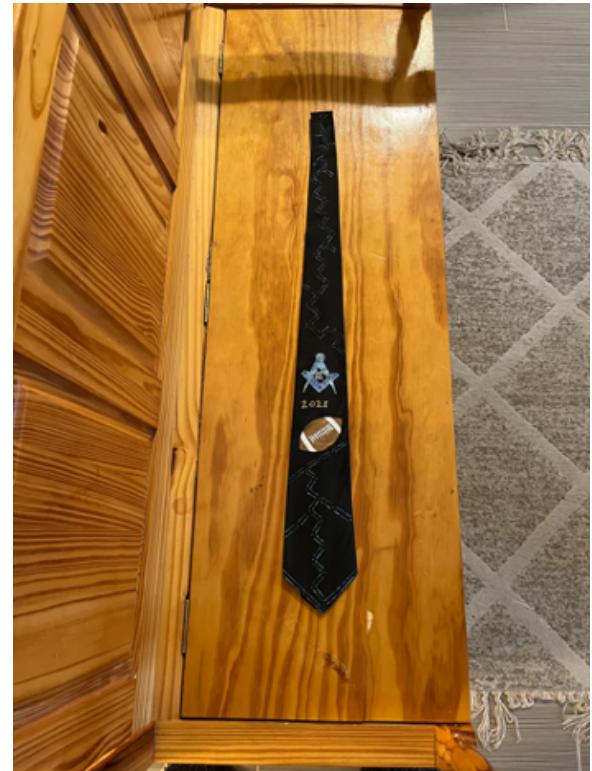
### Pig Skin Pick'em

This past autumn, I sent out an email asking if anyone was interested in a Pig Skin Pick Em for the 2023 NFL Season. Pick Skin Pick Em is a game offered for free on ESPN's Fantasy Games app. The way it works is you pick which team you think will win the game. No point spreads or anything crazy. Just click on the team which you think will win. In theory this sounds pretty easy. Point spreads show which way the money is betting, in other words, which team is favored by most folks. And you're removing the point spread so this should be easy. It turns out, football is about matchups and not about how people bet. And this year was rough with a lot of middle of the road teams looking great one week then falling back to earth the next week.

Early in the season, Worshipful Brother Lane Guyot offered to paint a tie as a prize for the winner. We discussed design making sure there was room for artistic expression. You can see the result in the picture. It's a beauty and a one of a kind.

And the winner was none other than our current Worshipful Master Joe Andrus!

Congratulations, Worshipful.



## Word of The Issue: Architect

**Definition:** Many of us are familiar with the general word architect, whether it be in designing a structure or our Supreme Architect. Is there more to this word to cast more light upon?

**Etymology:** The word "architect" comes from the Greek word "arkhitekton," with "arkhi-" meaning "chief" or "principal," and "tekton" meaning "builder" or "craftsman." Originally, an architect was simply a master builder – someone who not only had the skills to construct buildings but also the vision to design them.

**Description:** An architect is a professional who is not only responsible for the design of a building but also the aesthetics, function, and often the oversight of the construction process. They are trained to create plans that optimize space, utilize sustainable practices, and ensure that the structure is safe and stable. Architects must balance artistic vision with practical considerations, making them both creators and pragmatists.

**Reflection:** An architect's role up to today is that of a creator. They take the space they are given and uses it to define and construct something new, with optimization in mind. As we begin this new year, let us be like the architect and optimize the space and environments we come into contact with.



## From The Editor

As the editor of our esteemed newsletter, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all who contributed their insights, stories, and events for this edition. Your offerings are the lifeblood of our publication, and it is through your shared experiences that the Masonic spirit thrives amongst us.

With this issue, I say Happy New Year to each and every one of you. For my family the new year it brings thoughts, plans and resolutions on what we would like the coming days, weeks and months to be like. Not starting from scratch, but taking the progress and changes of the year gone by and building upon them.

As our word of the issue suggests, let us be like the architect. Not rushing blindly into discussions, decisions or daily life but taking the time to truly "optimize" what we are given.

While life has a funny way of throwing curve balls at us, let us consider these as no more than changes in our environment and aspire us to walk upright always in our responses to them.

**Fraternally Yours,**  
Br. Dylan Cartwright



*Let the improvement of yourself keep you so busy that you have no time to criticize others. - Roy T. Bennett*

